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-Attribute this submission to: Sally Coons

-Organization (if applicable): **N/A**

-Title of Hearing: **Hearing on Responding to Long-Term Unemployment**

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been unemployed for almost two years now. I've sent out resumes, attended networking meetings, gone to job fairs, applied for part time work, and to keep from going crazy, I've helped neighbors, and my parents with home repair work as well as volunteer work. I've had very few interviews however the positions either get cancelled or there are so many people applying, I end up second or third choice or I don't get called back. The number of resumes I send out compared to the number of responses is discouraging to say the least. I've been in sales for the past fifteen years and have always ranked in the top 15% in the company. I've never had such a tough time finding work ever! The unemployment rate in Chicago is over 11% and on some job boards in the advertised positions state that if you're unemployed, you need not apply which is really discouraging. And there are so many scams out there, you wouldn't believe it!

I've read some very heartbreaking stories about what others are experiencing and I count my blessings. I didn't purchase a home even though I could have at one point. I don't have kids even though I'd like to have one or two, however how could I support them in a difficult time such as this. I feel like I'm never going to work again. I graduated from the University of Wisconsin Madison with a BS degree yet what good does it do? I've read about people with two Masters Degrees and they haven't gotten work. No one wants to hire someone overqualified because they know that if/they finally get a decent paying job, they will quit. And as far as going back to school with tuition sky high without a decent income, how realistic is that?

This recession has hit everyone in one way or another. It's devastating not knowing when it's going to get better and economist say that in a recovery, hiring is the last on the list of a full recovery.

You bailed out all those jerks that caused this catastrophe yet you'll leaving thousands of people blowing in the wind. And Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.....I don't even want to go there. It's so wrong that the hard working Americans get shoved out in the cold yet the CEO of these corporations are still employed and being paid millions of dollars while the rest of us rot. Why has no one been arrested? Why do these greedy, unethical, vile people get off without even a slap on the wrist? And what about those bonuses? Why did they receive any bonuses at all? People are at their wits end. Have you read about the increase in suicides? People who think they're going to lose their jobs and kill themselves at work. Or a friend of mine, whose husband lost his job in 2008 and my friend found him; he hung himself leaving her with two kids. It's extremely scary when you know someone who killed themselves because of this horrible job market.

I wonder how many people right now are contemplating suicide because of the pain and anguish of being unemployed; watching their kids suffer, their hopes and dreams shattered because of the sleazy subprime real estate market and the fact that people were being

approved for loans that/who couldn't afford the loans in the first place and those financial wizards with their Ivy league educations who were looking for easy money. Oh and thanks Fanny Mae and Freddie Mac and all you morons who believed everyone should own a home; the American dream turned into an American nightmare didn't it? Those credit default swaps certainly worked well, didn't they (which were implemented/put into place back in 1994)?

If you cut us off, I guess the numbers will look better for the upcoming elections and you can pat yourselves on the back and say, "Hey look, unemployment went down" because we won't be counted anymore. Oh and as far as health care, do you honestly believe people want health care instead of a job? You could spend 700 billion dollars of taxpayers' money on a bailout to save the ones who put us in this mess; however you won't extend unemployment benefits to people who lost their job to no fault of their own. How the hell does that make any sense? And how many jobs were created by the stimulus? I don't see any evidence.

Well, one thing is for certain: If you don't help us out, I guarantee come November, you'll know you made a huge mistake by ignoring the unemployed.

This was NOT the change we were looking for!

Sally Coons